

Club Activity

ANCHORAGE, Alaska. A beginners class was started under the auspices of the City Park Bureau of Anchorage. Noel Lillie and G. Thompson are the instructors. Classes are held at the Community Center. Glenn performed in the Old Man's dance from Mexico, Los Viejitos. Since it was a few days after a hernia operation he was in character. He couldn't straighten up, but did a splendid job.

VICTORIA, B. C. The pupils of Catherine Costain won first place and brought the house down with their excellent presentation of the Filipino Tinikling at the Victoria Musical Festival during May.

CHICAGO, III. The various Lithuanian Lituanista schools, composed of youngsters, held their own folk festival on May 26th at the Bucis Grove. Hundreds participated. All the children were dressed in in costumes, sang Lithuanian folk songs and danced folk dances. Four accordionists played for the young dancers. A special attraction were the ATŽALYNAS (Younger Generation) group, who are the children whose parents belonged to ATEITIS folk dance group as teenagers (and some still belong).



L to R: Winn Hirschman, Charles Fawkes, Madelynne Greene, Stephen Edlis, Pat Dixon, Nat Silberman, Beth Fawkes and Fred Zverin, members of the Folk Dance Association who sponsored Madelynne during the March 29-30 Institute of French, Spanish and Portuguese dances held in Chicago's Illinois Institute of Technology.

PITTSBURGH, Pa. On June 15 the English Dance Group Dorothy Bund acting secretary, presented evening of dancing and music featuring John and Mary Owen, Ailene Goodman at the Scottish Country Dance Society. It was held at the Skibo Ballroom of Carnegie Tech.

FOLK ARTS CENTER, BOSTON

On May 12, at the School of Fine Arts of Boston, University, The Folk Art Center presented the FOLK ART OF LITHUANIA. 36 costumed singers under the direction of Mr. J. Gaidelis, presented songs, the Lithuanian Folk Dance group of Ona Ivaska presented Sadutė, Mikita, Kubilas and Malunas. Dr. Maria Gimbutas, noted Lithuanian anthropologist and historian with Harvard University, delivered a talk on the Lithuanians. Mrs. Katherine Haviland reports: "The Lithuanians were superb!"

JR. DANCE CAMP FOR 8-15 AGE

The 7th Annual Junior Dance Camp will be held again atop Lookout Mountain near Denver, Colo. for children from the ages of 8 through 15. Square, folk, round, contra, ballroom and modern dances will be taught by Paul and Pauline Kermiet, Betty Schuh, Joan Brown and Zan Flasco. Campfires, swimming, hiking, evening songfests, stunt nights will be featured, plus a recital on August 17th. For further information contact: Jr. Dance Camp, Lighted Lantern, Rt. 3, Golden, Colorado.

MOORESTOWN, N. J. In New Jersey, sparked by Committee for International Visitors and many local organizations of a service or idealistic nature. Moorestown was host and hostess to a group of about 50 doctors, nurses, educators, business people from all over the world. Visitors who are studying and working on behalf of their countries in the Philadelphia, Camden, and South Jersey are. They were entertained privately at dinners in the homes of the various townspeople, who themselves represented different classes and professions, before coming to International Folk Dance Party in the Moorestown Junior High School Gym. The affair was open to all the Moorestown neighbors and friends. The refreshments were donated and individual silver offerings at the door amortized other unavoidable expenses.

A program of American Squares done by the local fifth graders and an International Folk Dance group called the "Village Dancers" from Philadelphia demonstrated—Lanie and Andy Melamed led the evening's activities of dancing and singing, a people to people affair which delights this program chairman for then Folk Dancing takes on a true folk quality by living up to its name of including all, regardless of color, age, status, or conjugal arrangement.

Too often Folk Dancing takes on a very deep and esoteric quality which loses its pure and primary purpose. The advanced dancers lose their identity in a smaller and smaller clique, and really miss the sparks that come from reseeding themselves among all people. An affair of this nature makes further study more purposeful and meaningful.

The biggest surprise to me, and, I suppose many others in this area, was that there are so many women from the Phillipines and Korea who are studying medicine. It was an enriching experience for my family and myself to entertain two very beautiful, and really young (they finish medical school in the Island in 2 years) Phillipina Doctors. One studying gynecology and the other internal medicine, and two very beautiful nurses — one American, and one a very peppy little Puerto Rican. As program chairman, I had to call the dinner to a halt rather early (selfish chagrin). They were marvelous guests and I wanted to keep them with us all evening and not share them with all the neighbors.

It's almost a sacrilege to disturb the enjoyment of after dinner coffee and wild cherry Vishniak (homemade from mountain picked berries) shared by vivid and interesting people such as I had the pleasure of entertaining. I fully intend to have these beauties come to the summer dancing on the Terrace of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, every Thursday that they can be free.

Frieda Gratzon

I never fully realized how valuable your magazine was until I had to write a paper for school on Balkan music in the U.S., and VILTS is well represented in the footnotes! Much valuable material on folklore has appeared, and I wouldn't be able to find this material elsewhere... Another reason for watching for VILTS is to see what is going on in other parts of the country. Many thanks for your worthwhile efforts, even though we too often take them for granted.

Phyllis Cohen
WhiteBear Lake, Min.

PITTSBURGH FOLK FESTIVAL

Ida Wicken

Introduction to Festival

In a time when much of the world mistakes uniformity for unity, coercion for cooperation, and fanaticism for enthusiasm, the annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival constitutes a refreshing and affirming part of traditional Americanism.

Pittsburgh, the great center of nationalities, has attracted people from all quarters of the globe and welded the riches of their diverse backgrounds into an iridescent rainbow of new life.

The foods and clothing, the customs and tradition, the language, dancing, and music are brought forward with pride and artistry.

Underlying the Festival is the deep conviction that, in a land of freedom, one can afford to be different, and that these differences through sincerity and mutual respect, become the firm foundations of our unity.

John R. McCartan, Jr.

The 1963 Pittsburgh Folk Festival opened at Syria Mosque this year with the spotlight on a high balcony with a lone Scottish piper playing the haunting melody of the Skye Boat Song. As the last strain died away the resplendent Scots marched down the isle and up on the stage with the skirl of the clan pipers and drummers playing the glorious music of Scotland. Dances were the Sword Dance, the lively and graceful country dance, Bonnie Anne, and the ever popular Highland Fling performed by children of all sizes and the adults, too. Truly the scots were magnificent to behold!

Among the newcomers to this year's Festival were the Slovenians under the chairmanship of Violet Ruparcich, who is also Folkarts Consultant for the YWCA. The Slovenian program included dances Zidana Marela, Po Zelenoj Trati, Polster Tanc, the famous "Pillow Dance," and Slovenian songs. The program was a typical Slovenian gathering finding the townsfolk merrymaking, toasting the home-made wine to one another's good health, singing and dancing. The beautiful solo Al' Me Bos Kaj Rada imela — "Will You Ever Love Me" was sung by Violet Ruparcich, whose contralto voice is usually heard in the Pittsburgh Opera.



Violet Ruparcich, YWCA Folkarts Consultant of Pittsburgh (and an old time VILTS reader, too) and chairman of the Slovenian group. Foto Steve Kopko.

Highlights of the Scandinavian Program, which was an old village wedding, were Norwegian Sorland Springar, danced by the bride and groom, and the Oxdans, a mock



Ja! That punch hurts! Len Lester, back to audience, let Ed Fisher have it during the Oxdans at the Scandinavian section of the program. Pastor E. J. Alexis is seen under the bridal arch. Foto Steve Kopko.

fight. Scandinavian weddings lasted for many days and before they were over there was often a fight, which need not be in earnest, but a test of strength between the young men. From the picture of the Oxdans it is obvious not only the audience but the weddin guests on stage enjoyed the fight. Costumes worn by the men are from the province of Setesdal, Norway.

The Bulgarian program depicted a celebration known as "Babin Den", which literally translated means "Grandmother's Day"; however, it is a day honoring the "midwives" of the village. Program opened with "Baba" riding a donkey through the village to the home where she is honored with much merriment, singing and dancing. The Bulgarian program as usual was outstanding for its vigor and excellent dancing. Dances were Chestoto, Mushko Troino, Shopo Suite, medley made up of Shopsko Horo, Graovska and Zidarsko, Zizaj Nane and the Rechenitzka, dance performed in couples and often referred to as Bulgaria's National Dance.

The Italian program was a tribute to romance through dance and song. The program opened with the rich baritone voice of opera singer Lawrence Malfatti in a traditional Tuscan love song. Then the stage burst to life as all joined in the Italian figured dance, the Codiglione. Other dances under the able direction of Program and Dance Director, Eugene Ricotti, were an Italian Mazurka to the favorite melody, "Tra Veglia e Sonno" and the never ending favorite, the Tarantella. Highlights of the dance program were solos by Eugene Ricotti and Batya Paris, who performed a seldom seen version of the Tarantella, and Georgia and Art Volmrich in the Italian Mazurka.

These are but a few of the many nationalities contributing to the seventh annual Pittsburgh Folk Festival, sponsored by the Robert Morris Junior College every spring. Program Director Nicholas Jordanoff and Festival Director Charles R. Cubelic have chalked up another highly successful year and all the nationalities look forward to a continuance of one of the most enjoyable events in the city of Pittsburgh. Not only do we of the nationality groups appreciate our excellent directors and sponsor, but many of us also especially thank the Tamburitzas musicians who so generously give of their time and talent to the success of our programs.

The theme for the Polish program was the Welcoming of Spring, Idzie Gaik, Joseph A. Borkowski was the general chairman.

The advent of Spring and the Easter holidays are eagerly awaited in Poland, for this is the time when joy and courting becomes a communal matter.